



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 24, 1998

Ms. E. Cary Grace  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Houston  
Legal Department  
P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

OR98-1735

Dear Ms. Grace:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 116969.

The City of Houston (the "city") received a request for Offense Report No. 93536788 B. You assert that, with the exception of the "public release information portion" of the requested report, the report is excepted from public disclosure based on section 552.108 of the Government Code.

Section 552.108(a)(1) of the Government Code states that "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if release of the information would interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." You state that the Houston Police Department considers the case to be open. We therefore believe release of the information would "interfere with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime." Section 552.108 is inapplicable to basic information about an arrested person, an arrest, or a crime. Gov't Code § 552.108(c). We believe such basic information refers to the information held to be public in *Houston Chronicle Publishing Company v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), *writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976). Thus, with the exception of the basic information, the city may withhold the report from disclosure based on section 552.108(a)(1).

We are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue

under the facts presented to us in this request and may not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kay Hastings".

Kay Hastings  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KHH/mjc

Ref.: ID# 116969

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Monty L. Drake  
Monty Drake & Associates  
P.O. Box 161512  
Fort Worth, Texas 76161  
(w/o enclosures)